

**SECRET**

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14 March 1951

The Honorable F. J. Lawton  
The Director of the Bureau  
of the Budget  
Washington 25, D. C.

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Dear Mr. Lawton:

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In amplification of our recent talk on the matter of space, I should like to add the following pertinent facts. CIA is now occupying about 530,000 square feet of office space in no less than nineteen buildings variously located in the District. Several of these, containing some of our most sensitive activities, are half a mile or more distant from the headquarters building. Many others require messenger service between them and headquarters for the constant transmission of highly classified material. The security risk is obvious, and is a matter of gravest concern.

In addition to the space now occupied, I estimate that our immediate future requirements, to carry out projects with which you are familiar, will be about 200,000 additional square feet of office space, and in our present dispersed situation this will involve an added threat to security. The danger, which is very real, can only be overcome if all CIA activities are put under one roof, in a building which can be adequately protected from penetration.

Also to be considered is the fact that if this Agency were in one building, we could save approximately half a million dollars in guards' salaries alone.

I find that the Munitions Building, of which I spoke to you, contains 750,000 square feet (net). If this building were assigned to CIA, we could in turn make available immediately to other services the 530,000 square feet that we now occupy, would have room for our own expansion, and would be able to house the staff and facilities for the Psychological Warfare organization of which we spoke. I strongly recommend this to your consideration, purely for the overriding reason of security.

Sincerely,

BTENED

WBS/c

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Walter B. Smith

Director

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